Diseases due to vehicle pollution

79. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution caused by vehicles is harmful to the health of the people;

(b) if so, the names of diseases caused by pollution from vehicles; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The vehicular exhaust contains carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, suspended particles including PM-10, benzene, formaldehyde, polycyclic hydrocarbons etc. Several epidemiological studies have shown that the exposure to these compounds is associated with breathing and respiratory problems, aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, adverse effects on the immune system, damage to the lung tissue and carcinogenesis.

(c) As part of preventive measures to check the pollution levels due to vehicular emissions, the Government has implemented vehicular emission norms and other control measures such as introduction of:

i. Unleaded petrol.

ii. Bharat Stage-I, II & III emission standards.

iii. Low Sulphur diesels.

iv. Low benzene gasoline.

v. CNG fuels for commercial vehicles and public transport.

vi. 'Pollution Under Control' (PUC) certificate.

Central Pollution Control Board is the authority for checking the air pollution levels in various cities and for studying the effects of various control measures through the State Pollution Control Boards.

Shortage of blood components

80. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government run blood banks in the Capital are gripped by a serious shortage and the situation is so serious that even major hospitals are also affected;

(b) whether there is also acute shortage of several blood components such as red blood cell concentrate, platelet concentrate and fresh frozen plasma and cryoprecipitate which are needed for different types of patients;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to meet the situation if there is an outbreak of some disease like dengue needing blood components?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. There is no serious shortage of blood in the capital. During the year 2006, as against the projected demand of 2.60 lakh units of blood, 2.82 lakh units of blood was available in 59 blood banks in the capital.

(b) No, Sir. There is no report of acute shortage of blood components such as Red Blood Cell Concentrate, Platelate concentrate, Fresh Frozen Plasma and Cryoprecipitate from the 41 Blood Component Separation Units functioning in the capital. During the year 2006,41 Blood Component Separation Units in the capital have prepared 1,63,518 units of 'pack cells'; 43,015 units of 'plasma'; 99,644 units of 'platelate concentrate' and 1,05,160 units of 'fresh frozen plasma'.

(c) In a seasonal outbreak of diseases like 'dengue fever', 41 Blood Component Separation Units are well equipped to meet the demand of additional 'platelate concentrate' required for management of dengue fever patients. In the event of dengue epidemic, regular monitoring of availability of 'platelate concentrate' is being done both at the Ministry level as well as at the level of Govt. of NCT of Delhi to ensure that the acute shortage of 'platelate concentrate' does not exist in the capital. During such circumstances, round the clock availability of 'platelate concentrate' is ensured in these facilities for emergency situations.

AIDS among the children

†81. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 10 out of 50 children have been found HIV positive during examination conducted for the HIV check-up in the Lala Lajpat Rai Medical College, Meerut;

(b) whether HIV/AIDS is spreading in the other parts of the country on the same pattern;

(c) the status of cases with regard to HIV/AIDS in all States of the country during the year 2002 and 2006; and

(d) whether any scheme is being formulated by Government at warfoot level for protection and treatment of the HIV/AIDS victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As per revised estimates of 2006, number of persons with HIV/AIDS is estimated to be between 2 to 3.1 million. There is evidence to show that HIV epidemic is stabilizing in the country.

(c) A Statement showing estimated number of cases of HIV/AIDS in States during 2002 and 2006 is enclosed (*See* below)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.